

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of RUEGER et al.

Serial No.

Filing Date Herewith

Title TIME- AND EVENT-CONTROLLED ACTIVATION
SYSTEM FOR CHARGING AND DISCHARGING
PIEZOELECTRIC ELEMENTS

*Filed
8-16-01*

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

3. (Amended) Apparatus as according to claim 1, characterized in that the current is regulated by switching a charge or discharge switch (3, 5) as the function of the time characteristic and the event characteristic to achieve the effective low average current.
4. (Amended) Apparatus as according to claim 1, characterized in that when the current is at a level below a predefined lower threshold, the charge switch remains open for a predefined time interval to allow the current to exhibit a gap.
5. (Amended) Apparatus as according to claim 1, characterized in that a charge switch (3) or a discharge switch (5) of the apparatus is switched from an OFF position to an ON position or from the ON position to an OFF position, respectively to allow or stop charging or discharging when an absolute value of the current is respectively equal to or greater than or less than the event characteristic which is a predefined limit threshold current.
6. (Amended) Apparatus as according to claim 1, characterized in that a charge or discharge switch (3, 5) of the apparatus is switched from the OFF position to the ON position to allow